

"Play Ball" Will Echo Through Land To-day

Big League Pennant Races to Open in Eight Cities with a Roar.

FEAST FOR THE "FANS" HERE

Yankees Will Face Boston on the Hilltop, While Giants Must Meet Superbas Across the Bridge.

All the grandmothers who survived the fearful strain of the world's series last fall are doomed to an untimely demise to-day. If the weather is fair as promised, the mortality among relatives both near and distant will be appalling according to the most authentic reports, for the day which has cheered the small boy and not a few big boys during the long winter months is here. This afternoon, the magic words "Play ball" will be heard in eight big league parks and another baseball season will be on.

For the first time in many years New York will be treated to a double bill for the opening day. With the Giants beginning the season in Brooklyn at 4 o'clock this afternoon and the Yankees starting their campaign on the Hilltop at 3:30 o'clock, the baseball populace may well declare that it is beginning the season with a vengeance. Amid the festive decorations and the blare of martial music Supreme Court Justice Edward E. McCall will throw out the first ball to start the new pennant race at American League Park, while Mayor Gaynor will test his arm in doing the honors at Washington Park, Brooklyn.

Torn by two rival attractions, the "fans" of the metropolitan district have had a hard time deciding where to go. With the champion Giants meeting the Superbas in Brooklyn and the New York Yankees engaging in dire combat with the Boston Red Sox on the Hilltop, a feast of baseball is provided which is rarely served up for the delectation of the followers of the game in any one city. Although no announcement has been made, everything points to a spirited pitchers' battle between Russell Ford and Joe Wood, at American League Park, while the two sterling southpaws, the greatest in the game to-day, Rube Marquard and "Nap" Rucker, are picked for duty in Brooklyn. Either game is worth going miles to see, and with bright skies such as promised by the forecasters, there will be an outpouring of "fans" which will test the seating capacity of the two parks to the limit.

Predictions for the most successful baseball season in history are made this year by those most closely connected with the game. Both President Lynch of the National League and President Johnson of the American League are confident of a banner campaign, and have prophesied pennant races of such keenness that the mouths of the "fans" water at the prospect. There has been a general strengthening of the big league line-up, and it is pretty generally expected that the Giants will have a merry little time trying to win the National League bunting again, while four or five managers in the younger organization are determined that the cunning Connie Mack shall not have everything his own way this season and are out to give the owner of the Athletics the battle of his life.

Hardly in top condition, the Yankees arrive in New York last evening after a more or less unsuccessful training season. Hampered by rain and cold weather and handicapped here and there by injuries, Wolverton has had his troubles bringing the team to top form. In the last three or four exhibition games the New York team has played poorly, and while hitting the ball like champions, fielding and base running have been below par. But the team is game to the core and is trusted to give the Red Sox a lively battle this afternoon. Fortunately Wolverton will be able to swing his full fighting strength into line to start the new campaign. The injured members of the nine have sufficiently recovered to get into the game once more. While the defense of the team lacks cohesiveness through insufficient practice, it will take only a little to bring the nine around.

Outside of Street and Wolverton, there will be no new faces in the line-up when the Yankees take the field this afternoon. Dolan earned a place at third base last fall and has kept it by right of might ever since. He is the only youngster who did not start the last campaign with the Yankees. Street, of course, will be in the right field, and the New York uniform, but it is no stranger to the metropolitan "fans." Then, too, there is Wolverton, about whom the followers of the team have heard so much and seen so little. Considerable attention will be devoted to the new manager, who is certain to be out on the coaching lines keeping the team up to the mark every minute. Chase, Gardner, Hartnell and the infield are the fielding and base running stars of the team, and it is no stranger to the metropolitan "fans." Then, too, there is Wolverton, about whom the followers of the team have heard so much and seen so little. Considerable attention will be devoted to the new manager, who is certain to be out on the coaching lines keeping the team up to the mark every minute.

The Red Sox, who are being highly considered these days as powerful rivals of the champion Athletics, arrived in New York yesterday, having cancelled a game scheduled to be played in Worcester, Mass., in order that they might get a rest for today's game. Jake Stahl has put his life into a team which was always a pretty likely looking aggregation. Bolstering up first base himself, Stahl has put the brilliant Wagner at second, the equally sensational Yerkes at short and Gardner at third. These, with that hard hitting trio of outfielders, Lewis, Speaker and Hooper, present a formidable front to all rivals. Stahl declares that he has a find in a young infielder named Krug, who may possibly edge his way into the line-up at short. Joe Wood appears to be primed for the fray, while O'Brien gives every indication of living up to the predictions of a glorious baseball career which were made for him when he humbled the Athletics so easily last fall. On the whole, the Red Sox are better prepared to begin the season than the Yankees, although they, too, have been hampered by bad weather.

Preparations have been made to entertain a big crowd on the Hilltop. The game will begin at 3:30 o'clock, the gates being opened at 12:30 o'clock. Prince's military band has been engaged to help whip away the tedium of the game. The concert will start at 2 o'clock. Workmen have been busy during the last two days in putting up the decorations, and when the curtain is rung up this afternoon the old park will be garishly attired in a new dress of multi-colored pennants and flags. Wolverton will receive a silver loving cup, which will be presented by Assemblyman Alfred E. Smith on behalf of the "fans" of Oakland. Hart and Connolly will umpire.

Justice McCall, who will throw out the ball on the Hilltop, is a great lover of the national game. Nearly thirty years ago the young men who attended the Transfiguration Church, in Mott street, organized the Leo Baseball Club, which turned out to be one of the local champions. Justice McCall was second baseman and the other players were Eddie McClynn, catcher; Bill Lawton, pitcher; John Gavigan, first base; Patrick Connelly, third base; Thomas Walsh, Billy Griffith and John Conaghan, outfielders, and Joe Fitzpatrick, shortstop and captain. The Leo won a championship trophy in 1882, and last November it was presented to Justice McCall, accompanied by this letter:

Ed. E. McCall, Hon. Judge and Friend.

We call on you to-day to present to you

Where the League Teams Will Play

AMERICAN LEAGUE.
Boston at New York.
Washington at Philadelphia.
Detroit at Cleveland.
St. Louis at Chicago.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.
New York at Brooklyn.
Philadelphia at Boston.
Chicago at Cincinnati.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis.

The Weather Man last night predicted for a slightly warmer weather to-day, and the "fans" can rejoice.

The early birds will get the best seats. The gates will be open at both parks at 12:30 o'clock.

The trophy won by the Leo Baseball Club in 1882 (twenty-eight years ago) by you and several comrades. To-day it is without a home.

We kindly ask you to accept it and give it a permanent one, hoping it will bring kindly recollections to you.

JOHN J. McNALLY,
WILLIAM SMITH,
JOHN J. SMITH,
EDWARD F. CONDON,
Committee.

All Brooklyn and a large part of Manhattan is on the qui vive over the struggle between the Superbas and the Giants this afternoon. Bill Dahlen has strengthened his team with the infusion of new men, while McGraw has his champions in tiptop condition, ready to get the jump at the beginning of the race.

The little Napoleon has stood pat on the team that met the Athletics last fall, believing that it will be stronger than ever after a year's experience. Merkle, Doyle, Fletcher and Herzog will hold down the infield, while Devore, Snodgrass and Murray will make up the outfield. With Marquard and Matty to do the bulk of the pitching, ably supported by Ames, Crandall, Wilts, Tesreau and Drucke, McGraw feels that he has nothing to fear. If the machine cracks, the New York leader has two slightly little infielders in Shafer and Groh to call on, three fast outfielders in Becker, Burns and McCormick, and two new pitchers in Tesreau and Maxwell. Tesreau is the big prize of the season and looks better every time he works.

The Superbas arrived in New York early yesterday morning, after winding up a disastrous spring training trip by winning two games from the Washington Senators. The players reported for a little work-out at Washington Park yesterday afternoon and seemed to be in fine condition, in spite of their rainy journey through the South and West.

There will be several new faces in the line-up when the team takes the field to-day. Dahlen has picked up several "stars" and has lost no time in giving them regular berths on the team. Two youngsters, Moran and Northen, have been assigned to help Zach Wheat take care of things in the outer garden, while Smith at third, Hummel or Stark at second, Kelly at short and Daubert at first, will make up the infield. With these four new men in the line-up the Superbas have taken a new lease on life and seem to be a much stronger nine than last season. Rucker is in fine condition to start the season, while both Knetzer and Berger are planning to have a big year.

Great preparations have been made to have a tremendous crowd at Washington Park this afternoon. The grounds are in excellent condition for the game, in spite of the recent rains. The contest will be opened at 3:30 o'clock, but the gates will be opened as early as 12:30 for the benefit of the "fans" who are particular where they sit and willing to come early to get a favored location.

Shannon's Twenty-third Regiment Band has been engaged to entertain the throng and a fine programme of music has been arranged. The demand for seats has been large enough to convince the management that a record-breaking crowd will see the game. Only box seats have been sold in advance. All others are unsold and will be disposed of to the first comers.

The Superbas, Giants, Yankees and Red Sox will be the guests of Louis Mann at his performance of "Elevating a Husband" at the Criterion Theatre to-night. Boxes have been reserved for the players.

President Lynch yesterday assigned his umpires for the opening games as follows: Klem and Bush at Brooklyn, Risher and Pinner at Boston, Johnstone and Eason at Cincinnati and Owens and Brennan at St. Louis.

The summaries follow:

100-yard dash—Won by A. M. Fishland, Company I, W. A. Tansley, Hospital Corps, second; T. Crain, Company I, third. Time, 0:14. 220-yard dash—Won by Shonah, Company I, second; Fleming, Hospital Corps, third. Time, 0:26. 440-yard dash—Won by G. W. Ganser, Company I, with a put of 4 feet; First Sergeant Landen, Company I, with a put of 32 feet; second, S. Clapland, Company M, with a put of 20 feet.

100-yard race—Won by T. Polowitz, Company I, E. Miller, Company I, second; E. Williams, Company I, third. Time, 0:30. 220-yard race—Won by Williams, Company I, second; E. Williams, Company I, third. Time, 0:30. 440-yard race—Won by Williams, Company I, second; E. Williams, Company I, third. Time, 0:30.

Putting 12-pound shot—Won by G. W. Ganser, Company I, with a put of 4 feet; First Sergeant Landen, Company I, with a put of 32 feet; second, S. Clapland, Company M, with a put of 20 feet.

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YALE WARMS UP GIANTS

Makes Good Showing Against National League Champions.

MERKLE SCORES ON TRICK

Turns Punt Into Home Run, While Becker Is Being Trapped on Base Lines.

Yale's baseball nine stopped off at the Polo Grounds yesterday on its way back from a Southern trip to give the Giants their last warming up spin before the opening of the National League pennant race at Washington Park, Brooklyn, to-day. Incidentally, the score was 7 to 2 in favor of John J. McGraw's men, and also incidentally, Charles Victory Faust, who last year served the Giants so well as a flax to opposing teams, made his formal bow to the assembled "fans," after being introduced by Arlie Latham, and in a short speech announced, without removing his hat, that he was "back on the job."

Some thousand onlookers were almost lost in the vast stadium, but those who turned out saw two fairly snappy and interesting games. After the red Giants had beaten the Yale "crusity" by the afore-said score of 7 to 2 the New York recruits took issue with the Yale substitutes, and won by a score of 11 to 3.

The score of the first game does not indicate how well the college men played. With the exception of some ragged work in the fourth inning, Captain Merritt and his mates showed commendable skill and a dashing style that augurs well for games to come with rival college teams. Scott, who was in the box for Yale, held the National League champions to eight hits, and altogether made a most favorable impression. Six errors behind him, however, nullified some of his good work and made the game look a bit one-sided. Scott had good control, too, giving only three bases on balls, but unfortunately they were bunched in one inning.

George Wilts held the Yale batters in the hollow of his hand while in the box for the Giants, but the college men had less respect for Otis Crandall, the great relief pitcher of the New York team, and greeted him with three stinging hits in the sixth inning, which netted two runs. An error by Shafer started the trouble for Crandall, as Scott got a life at first base. Groff and Captain Merritt then followed with two lagers down the third base line, and two men scrambled home. Reilly also came along with a single, but was left. Just to show that it was not a scratch, however, the same player slammed out a two-bagger in the next inning, but again it counted for nothing.

Arthur Fletcher was still nursing the injury he received two or three days ago, so that Groh played short for the Giants, and has lost no time in giving them regular berths on the team. Two youngsters, Moran and Northen, have been assigned to help Zach Wheat take care of things in the outer garden, while Smith at third, Hummel or Stark at second, Kelly at short and Daubert at first, will make up the infield. With these four new men in the line-up the Superbas have taken a new lease on life and seem to be a much stronger nine than last season. Rucker is in fine condition to start the season, while both Knetzer and Berger are planning to have a big year.

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MEN WHO WILL LEAD THE YANKEES, GIANTS AND SUPERBAS INTO ACTION TO-DAY.

JOHN J. MCGRAW.
Manager of the Giants.

HARRY WOLVERTON.
Manager of the Yankees.



Tom Lynch Expects a Banner Year

Thomas J. Lynch, president of the National League, smiled yesterday when asked to make a prediction as to the probable outcome of the National League pennant race. He said:

"I rarely make predictions and do not wish to begin now, but the eye of a struggle that promises to be hard fought from beginning to end. Of course, the Giants, who won the flag last year, can be expected to make a brave fight to repeat, but some of the other teams have been strengthened, or so it looks, which means plenty of keen competition. Unless sadly mistaken, I am sure that baseball will enjoy its most prosperous year. The sport has a host of loyal followers, and I do not think that the high water mark of its popularity has been reached. Our league is in excellent condition and we are counting on a great race and generous support."

DEVLIN GOES TO BOSTON

Veteran Third Baseman of the Giants Gets His Release.

Arthur Devlin, of the New York Giants, who a few years ago was acknowledged by all to be the king of third basemen, was released yesterday by McGraw to the Boston Braves within a few days and, practically start the season with the team.

Devlin came to the Giants from Newark in 1904 and almost immediately earned the right to a permanent berth on the nine. It was due in no small part to his brilliant fielding and good hitting that the Giants won the National League pennant and world's championship in 1905. He strengthened one of the weak points in the team at a critical time and was in short order into the peerless third baseman that he was. For seven years Devlin was one of the most brilliant and consistent players on the team, covering the territory around third as no other man in the league could do, while hitting the ball in splendid fashion.

In the middle of last season the strain of the campaign told heavily upon him, and when McGraw decided upon that quick shift which ultimately meant the pennant, bringing Herzog over from Boston to play third and placing Fletcher in Al Bridwell's position at short, Devlin was benched. He served out the year as a utility player and a coach. Arthur went to Marlborough Springs with the team this spring, and there was some talk of his being an understudy to Merkle at first base. His experience made him a valuable man to have around on the team, and it was thought that McGraw would keep him as a general utility man and coach.

The little Napoleon, however, is evidently having a hard time in keeping within the twenty-five player limit and at the same time hanging on to some of the promising youngsters which he discovered this spring. Consequently Devlin was released to make room for younger blood.

The New York third baseman will undoubtedly be able to play regularly with the Braves and will strengthen them materially in a position in which they are extremely weak. At short he will find his old side partner on the New York team, Al Bridwell, if Bridwell's legs come around so that he can play this year.

Joe O'Brien, secretary of the Giants, announced yesterday that the Brush Stadium will be thrown open to the public for inspection on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

TO TEST GIBBONS'S SKILL

Jeff Smith Will Meet Westerner in Roped Arena To-night.

Mike Gibbons, the cleverest middleweight in the world to-day, will face a rival whom many believe worthy of the mastery Westerner's steel when he crosses gloves with Jeff Smith, the free hitting youngster from Raymont, in a ten-round bout at the National Sporting Club of America to-night. Disquieting rumors have leaked out from the training quarters of Gibbons, and if these are true Smith faces the opportunity of his career. If he can defeat or even make a good showing with Gibbons he can demand and secure profitable engagements with the best men of the class. Jeff realizes that his moment is at hand, and he will box as he never did before.

It is said that Gibbons's stomach has been giving him much trouble in the last few weeks, and that during his training for Smith he was in distress for several days. The same reports were circulated when Mike was preparing himself for Jack Deming.

Sick or otherwise, Gibbons is a topheavy

Rome - EXCELSIOR - Naples

SPORTING.

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!

National Sporting Club

MIKE GIBBONS vs. JEFF SMITH

Admission, \$3. Reserved Seats, \$5 and \$7

Box Seats, \$7 and \$10

AUTOMOBILES.

PEERLESS 48 H. P. 6 Cyl.

Latest model, 7-passenger, brand new, run 800 miles, cost \$3,200 three weeks ago. Am I offered? PEERLESS, Box 40, Tribuna

How Yankees and Giants Will Take Field To-Day

NEW YORK YANKEES (AMERICAN LEAGUE)

	G.	A.	B.	R.	H.	SB.	HR.	B.A.	P.O.	A.	E.	F.A.	S.H.	S.B.
Waller, rf.	122	334	78	132	17	15	4	.304	178	18	10	.351	10	23
Daniels, cf.	131	402	71	132	16	9	2	.286	256	15	11	.341	19	36
Chase, lb.	133	327	82	100	32	7	3	.315	1257	82	36	.374	22	36
Cree, lf.	137	320	90	181	30	22	4	.348	215	19	10	.364	9	48
Hartnell, ss.	114	327	67	156	17	11	3	.296	158	221	26	.336	22	22
Dolan, 3b.	109	19	19	21	1	2	1	.394	31	33	8	.347	1	12
Gardner, 2b.	102	357	36	94	13	2	0	.263	181	290	20	.309	13	14
Murray, p.	72	216	16	48	7	1	1	.222	362	102	13	.373	5	4
Saltsell, p.	59	147	14	40	4	1	0	.272	8	53	3	.363	1	5
Ford, p.	37	102	10	20	2	1	0	.196	16	70	5	.345	4	2

Team batting, .270; team fielding, .948. Other pitchers who may be called in to-day—Vaughn, Warhop, Quinn, Fisher and McConnell.

NEW YORK GIANTS (NATIONAL LEAGUE)

	G.	A.	B.	R.	H.	SB.	HR.	B.A.	P.O.	A.	E.	F.A.	S.H.	S.B.
Devore, lf.	140	565	96	158	19	10	3	.280	241	29	19	.334	9	61
Doyle, 2b.	141	326	102	163	25	13	3	.310	272	40	46	.344	20	38
Snodgrass, cf.	151	334	83	137	27	10	1	.294	293	31	9	.373	26	31
Murray, p.	131	488	70	112	27	15	3	.291	196	12	10	.354	11	48
Merkle, lb.	148	511	80	153	24	12	10	.283	1375	117	22	.385	14	49
Herzog, 3b.	147	541	90	157	33	9	6	.290	92	149	18	.331	30	48
Fletcher, ss.	108	326	73	104	17	8	1	.319	116	224	27	.328	7	20
Meyers, c.	128	391	48	130	18	9	1	.332	729	108	18	.379	10	7
Marquard, p.	45	104	9	17	1	2	1	.163	6	46	4	.329	3	0
Mathison, p.	45	112	12	22	2	0	0	.196	31	107	2	.368	3	0

Team batting, .270; team fielding, .939. Other pitchers who may be called in to-day—Ames, Wilts, Crandall, Drucke and Tesreau.

favorite. He has yet to meet a man clever enough to bring out all of his weaknesses, and there is little possibility of him allowing Smith to penetrate his mastery and yet unswerving defence.

DEMAREST READY FOR HOPPE.

CALVIN Demarest, the Chicago player, who will oppose Willie Hoppe for the 182 ball-line billiard title this evening, showed that he was in good form in his final practice game against George Curtis, at Sloan's Academy last night. The final score was 600 to 500. Demarest was in fine stroke, making many consistent runs, his best being 102. The winner's average was 314-16.

Brooklyn won the National Billiard League series from Chicago in the final games played at the Knickerbocker Academy, Brooklyn, last night. The score was 50 to 39. Charles Otis represented the victors, while John Shea was replaced by Dr. Arthur Harris in the thirty-fifth inning for Chicago.

R. H. Robertson, the president, presided at the meeting, which was well attended.

As the matter now stands, the present lease, which by its terms expires July 1, 1913, will be cancelled as of July 1, 1913. The new lease will run for twenty-two years with the option of renewal for twenty-one more, and if the club so desires it will have the privilege of continuing to use the building for one year.